

# YULETIDE EVENTS AT THE COLLEGES

## Princeton Yuletide Season Century Ago and Present Time

Students Just Before Revolution Had to Be Urged to Take Holidays.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
PRINCETON, N. J., Dec. 24.—The modern undergraduate probably would make a big revolution if he had ten propositions of Euclid to prepare for the day after Christmas, and Nassau Hall might be a prey to the fire demon for the fourth time if he had to arise in time to attend prayers at 5:30 o'clock in the morning. But that is what the Princeton undergraduate did 125 years ago. A century and a quarter have done much to change the manner in which Princeton students spend their holidays. Perusal of the records of the university for the period shortly after the revolution brings to light many unusual facts concerning the student customs of the time and the manner in which people in general passed the Christmas season.

The undergraduates of the time were permitted to leave Princeton for a recess, as they are at present, but the difficulties of travel made it almost impossible for any except those who lived within a few miles of the village to get home. Now men start for Texas or California with as little concern as though they were making a trip to Princeton Junction, and Christmas is spent hundreds of miles from the scene of scholastic labors.

From a letter written just before the Revolution it is evident that the recess started on December 24, at noon, and that two of the students were rash enough to ride on horseback to Philadelphia, braving the perils and discomforts of the road for one day at home. Only a few men, however, were fortunate enough to have their own horses, and consequently there were more men left in Nassau Hall than went home. The faculty frowned upon those who remained, however, and urged them to spend their vacation at some place other than Princeton, even if they could not go home.

### Temptations of Idleness.

One of the presidents of the university in an order of this sort gave as his reason "since it is found that when a number of young persons are collected together without regular occupation or studies, the tendency to idleness and dissipation are often too strong to be resisted." The modern undergraduate requires no faculty order to have him on the first train for home after vacation begins. Those privileged characters with unlimited cuts often depart several days before the less brilliant ones who are required to attend all classes on the day vacation begins.

Another letter written in 1789 shows that at that date the Christmas vacations had been abolished, for the writer had classes on Friday before Christmas, which came that year on Sunday, and had to stop his letter at 3 o'clock in the afternoon to prepare "ten propositions of Euclid against a 10 o'clock class in the morning" of the day after Christmas.

### Christmas Parties and Social Events

As of the present day seem to have been unknown, for the chief diversion of the season that year appears to have been an assembly in the chapel of old Nassau Hall, the room which is now the faculty room of the university, where the "senior class spoke orations of their own composition," but the writer of the letter said he "fancied their pieces rather solemn."

### Vesper Organ Recitals.

The vesper organ recitals given at the Graduate College probably dates back to this time also, for the student goes on to remark that there was also some music to be heard, but it was only a hand organ. This hand organ is well known in the history of Princeton, for it was the first organ ever installed in a Presbyterian institution, and at the time of its installation in 1790 caused much unfavorable comment among the leaders of the church in this country.

It was badly damaged by the British during their occupation of Princeton in 1776, before they were driven out by Washington after the battle of Princeton. It was repaired after the war and was going again in 1785, when this letter was written. It had handling by the British seems to have hurt its tone, however, for the undergraduate in his account of the ceremony ended by stating that it sounded more like the bagpipe than anything else.

In 1785 every one was required to rise at 5 o'clock in the morning to make his fire, and to attend prayers at 5:30, which is slightly different from the life of the modern undergraduate who grumbles at being forced to attend classes as early as 8 o'clock in the morning, and will take another course than the one he is taking to give him a few hours' extra sleep.

Of course, such things as a dramatic club which makes a Christmas trip which includes a dozen or more cities in the East and the harbor of New York, and a hockey team that spends the holidays at Lake Placid was unknown back in the days now a century or more away. College seemed a much more serious business, and the students of the 18th century attend any of the reunions held here on the days of big games they probably shrink back in holy horror at the thought of the average modern undergraduate.

### Ball for Soldiers and Sailors Club

A costume ball with some special dancing numbers by professional entertainers will be held in the Fitz-Carleton on the night of January 11 for the Soldiers and Sailors Club under the patronage of Misses Richard T. Wilson, Malcolm D. Groom, Francis Rogers, John Lee, Charles D. Dickey, Arthur Terry, Edwin C. Jamieson and Leland Cofer and Miss Grace R. Henry.

The entertainers will include Miss Marilyn Miller, Miss Adele Astaire, Fred Astaire, Alexis Kostoff, Carl Ramond and Fred Shaw. Tickets may be had at 80 West Fortieth street from Miss Mabel R. Beardsley.

The Soldiers and Sailors Club, at 261 Madison avenue, is for the use of the disabled soldiers under treatment in the hospitals in and near New York. The club also is open to soldiers and sailors in active service and provides dormitories, a canteen and social activities. The honorary chairmen are Major-General Robert Lee Bullard, commander of the Second Army Corps Area, and Capt. George G. of the Third Naval District. Mrs. Francis Rogers is actual chairman and Miss Beardsley vice-chairman.

## Mystery in Old Ruins in the Caroline Islands

Nanmatal Was a Prosperous City of Stone Many Hundreds of Years Before Japan Was Known.

"Late last night, when the others were sipping the inevitable tea on the broad veranda, I slipped away down the long hill toward the settlement. In a pocket was a little map in India ink and water colors, which Johann Kubary, the scientist, who buried himself in the Caroline Islands, had made in 1874 of the ruins of Nanmatal, the city of stone walls and canals off the east coast of Ponape, which has outlived the facts of its origin," writes Junius B. Wood, in the *National Geographic Magazine*.

Storms through countless generations have filled the broad, straight canals until the sands are dry at low tide, but the wall of heavy basaltic monoliths, in some places thirty feet high, have withstood typhoons and earthquakes, proof of a civilization forgotten when Quirós came, in 1595, and found the natives living then in flimsy houses of thatch and sticks.

Charles Darwin, F. W. Christian, the Rev. MacMillan Brown, Dr. Amberg and others of greater or lesser fame have delved in the ruins near Metalanin Harbor and evolved theories of their origin. They do not agree whether the patch of land, 1,200 yards long and half as wide, once was a tropical Venice or whether through the ages it has been gradually sinking, swallowed by the sea and smothered by vegetation. The waves still beat against its massive sea wall, while hundreds of little shell rings, used for money and necklaces, can be found even to-day.

One incident chronicled by all the scientists, like the fragment of bone from which the archaeologist reconstructs a dinosaur is that a metal spearhead was once found in the ruins, and another, less generally known, comes from Capt. John J. Mahlmann of Yokohama that forty years ago he copied two Chinese ideographs carved on one of the big stones. However, the whereabouts of the spearhead is unknown and the letter, which the English captain sent to Shanghai, was lost and he never could locate the stone again.

### Origin a Mystery.

Some say modern buccanniers built the city of stone without the natives knowing it, others trace it to the Copper Age, and the present Japanese claim it was the work of their ancestors, who built the unexcavated fort in Oaka.

A similar deserted city stands in the hills on the mainland of Ponape, back of the port of Ronkiki, on the southwest corner of the island. Near this is the home of Henry Nampel, a remarkable native chief, who has traveled extensively in Europe and America and is the bulwark of the Christian work on the island. He probably could tell more about the ruins than any other man, but the scientists have confined their researches to Nanmatal, which is more easily accessible.

Kubary first searched Nanmatal for Godfrey's museum, and when Governor Berg was in the islands he shipped so many specimens to the Leipzig Museum that the Government sent an expedition to clear away the jungle and study the city and the slightly different ruins on the island of Kusaie.

The latter adjoin the settlement, and as soon as the expedition left, the natives, directed by an unwary American planter, supplemented the visitors' labors by using a good portion of the uncovered walls for building a break-water and pier, greatly to the wrath of the Leipzig students of ancient history when they heard about it, a year later.

After his last visit to the Nanmatal ruins Governor Berg died suddenly, justifying the native superstition that the gods punish intruders.

The present Governor has a big white book in which visitors, either after exploring Nanmatal or discussing it in the cool of his residence, are requested to write their opinion of its origin.

The sight of the massive walls, silent and impressive, still surrounded by the narrow, straight canals and overgrown with jungle, is to the blistered back, wet feet and skinned shins necessary to reach the ruins. However, the present method, more reassuring for Governors and less strenuous for visitors, may be equally conclusive.

### Night on Ponape.

The broad road from the headquarters residence to the village below was a silvery path between black walls of trees. Only the stars were in the sky that night, and nowhere are they as bright as in the tropics.

Through the still air from a native settlement along the bay came the occasional thump of a drum and the echoes of laughter. The big parade ground was silent and deserted, the old Spanish wall and the new Japanese schoolhouse ghostly in the starlight. No spooling couples were in the village park.

The local police turn in early in Ponape. The Governor says he has arrested only twenty-two men, all for stealing. One took a bottle of sake from the Japanese store and the others eloped to short distances with their friends.

As the authorities discourage primitive methods of vengeance, local homewreckers are put in jail.

The house where I was going was dark, but alive with the beat breathing of many sleepers. It was a pretentious dwelling, long and low, like a field barn, with a narrow porch along the side, on which opened the rooms for different families. A "Hello!" brought answering light, and I stepped through an open door into darkness. Somebody appeared with a lantern.

My host and his family had been sleeping, according to the custom of the tropics. The wife slipped on a skirt, and he with two stretchers was fully clothed in shirt and trousers. He took the lanterns and we went into the residential social hall, a room with a table and two chairs and a waist high wall on three sides. The men and boys, who had been sleeping on the floor, pulled their mats outside and continued to snore.

### Kubary's Map of Nanmatal.

The map which Kubary had made nearly half a century ago, with its water colors showing land and water, and each ruined building drawn to scale, was spread on the rough table under the

## Questionnaire at Princeton Proves Men Are Earnest

Most Students There for Education, but Few Make Flip-pant Replies.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
PRINCETON, Dec. 24.—Education and the love of learning are no longer the sole motives which bring men to college in this day and age, if the average Princeton freshman's views can be taken as a guide.

The queries: "Why did you come to college?" and "Why did you come to Princeton?" were put to members of the class of 1925 in a recent questionnaire, and these have been supplemented by the more effective personal questioning of many members of the class. A majority came to college for both study and pleasure, quite a number being seriously convinced that an education was a valuable acquisition for later life.

Nanmatal means "in many openings," and the next largest division is composed of those who esteem most highly collegiate associations, the friends a man makes during his four years in academic shades. Parental pressure does not seem to have much weight in this day, as only the smallest number admitted that they had been compelled to continue their studies.

Fathers, friends and relatives who had been to Princeton combined to make a large number choose Old Nassau. A still larger number declared that the advantages of Princeton decided for them. Forty men pointed out the location of Princeton in the country, squarely between New York and Philadelphia, as their main reason.

The frivolous gave replies which would have scandalized a scholar of the old school or caused even Mr. Edison to blink, ranging from "I read Fitzgerald's 'This Side of Paradise' to 'I'm getting out of working for my living for four more years'."

Most of the replies in the 200 printed questionnaires simply said: "To get an education." Some of the entering men varied this formula far enough to specify that they included in the term "education" all that, friends, extra curriculum activities and the rest of life here.

A general broadening was another favorite answer, with emphasis laid upon the liberal courses for which Princeton is especially noted.

Some specimen replies are as follows: "I must make my way in the world and I came to college for this reason. An education is necessary. I also intend to have a good time and to make friends. I chose Princeton because my father knows all the trustees and I prefer it to other colleges."

"I came to get out of working. Dad said I could go to college or seek a job, and I preferred college."

"I don't know where to go, but I suppose because all the other fellows in my prep school were going to college. I chose Princeton because all of my friends were coming here."

"I came first of all for a good education, but I also intend to have a good time all four years. Princeton has all the advantages of a big college, and at the same time those of the smaller colleges."

"I came to make mother proud of me."

"I had to go to college to please my parents and I chose Princeton because of its reputation and the social side of the campus life."

"I had been out of a prep school for three years and I felt that I needed a college education in business. I needed some of the dope on myself that you can't get anywhere but in a college. I chose Princeton because it is my ideal of an educational institution, and has a reputation for turning out highly educated gentlemen."

### Christmas Parties For Forest Hills Inn

Christmas week at Forest Hills Inn promises to be very active, with many luncheons, dinners and dances, in addition to the Christmas party at The Inn this morning.

Among those who will entertain at the Inn to-day are Judge and Mrs. R. S. Newcombe and Mr. and Mrs. A. Howard Hopping. Col. and Mrs. J. H. Dalton and Mrs. and Mrs. Daniel Levens will give dinner parties this evening. Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson will entertain to-night in honor of their granddaughter, Mr. and Mrs. Lytle Hunter are giving a dinner for fourteen in the sun parlor of The Inn to-morrow.

There will be a New Year's Eve dance at the Inn and a midnight supper to watch the old year out. There also will be a special New Year's dance on Monday evening, January 2.

Miss Edna Schleicher entertained the Junior Bridge Club at her home on Tuesday evening. Those present included Miss Eunice Hill, Miss Helen Smith, Miss Frances Wright, Roger McCollough, Richard Bonneville, Edwin Burrell and Charles Slauson.

The Woman's Club will meet next Tuesday afternoon at The Inn to hear a lecture by Dr. Gregory Zilboorg, Russian writer. Among the new members of the club are Mrs. Paul M. James, Mrs. L. G. Donnelly, Mrs. P. J. Dunham, Mrs. W. P. S. Lander, Mrs. T. J. Magrines, Mrs. L. W. Wheeler and Miss Sarah Dittmar.

A club party will be held for the benefit of the Woman's Club in the home of Mrs. Henry Hirschberg on Wednesday afternoon, January 18.

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